
California Board of Registered Nursing

2007-2008 Annual School Report

Data Summary and Historical Trend Analysis

A Presentation of Pre-Licensure Nursing Education Programs in California

Northern California

March 23, 2009

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INTRODUCTION

Each year, the California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) requires all pre-licensure registered nursing programs in California to complete a survey detailing statistics of their programs, students and faculty. The survey collects data from August 1 through July 31. Information gathered from these surveys is compiled into a database and used to analyze trends in nursing education.

The BRN commissioned the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) to conduct a historical analysis of data collected from the 2000-2001 survey through the 2007-2008 survey. In this report, we present eight years of historical data from the BRN Annual School Survey. Data analyses were conducted statewide and for nine economic regions¹ in California, with a separate report for each region. All reports are available on the BRN website (<http://www.rn.ca.gov/>).

This report presents data from the 11-county Northern California region. Counties in the region include Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Nevada, Plumas, Sierra, Siskiyou, and Trinity. All data are presented in aggregate form and describe overall trends in the areas and over the times specified and, therefore, may not be applicable to individual nursing education programs. Additional data from the past eight years of the BRN Annual School Survey are available in an interactive database on the BRN website.

¹ The nine regions include: (1) Northern California, (2) Northern Sacramento Valley, (3) Greater Sacramento, (4) Bay Area, (5) San Joaquin Valley, (7) Central Coast, (8) Southern California I (Los Angeles and Ventura counties), (9) Southern California II (Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties), and (10) Southern Border Region. Counties within each region are detailed in the corresponding regional report. The Central Sierra (Region 6) does not have any nursing education programs and was, therefore, not included in the analyses.

DATA SUMMARY AND HISTORICAL TREND ANALYSES

This analysis presents pre-licensure program data from the 2007-2008 BRN Annual School Survey in comparison with data from previous years of the survey. Data items addressed include the number of nursing programs, enrollments, completions, retention rates and student and faculty census data.

Trends in Pre-Licensure Nursing Programs

Number of Nursing Programs

There are four nursing programs in the Northern California Region that led to RN licensure. Of these programs, three are ADN programs and one is a BSN program. All programs in this region are public.

Number of Nursing Programs

	<i>Academic Year</i>							
	<i>2000-2001</i>	<i>2001-2002</i>	<i>2002-2003</i>	<i>2003-2004</i>	<i>2004-2005</i>	<i>2005-2006</i>	<i>2006-2007</i>	<i>2007-2008</i>
Total # Nursing Programs	2	2	3	3	3	3	4	4
<i>ADN Programs</i>	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	3
<i>BSN Programs</i>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<i>ELM Programs</i>								
<i>Public Programs</i>	2	2	3	3	3	3	4	4
<i>Private Programs</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Admission Spaces and New Student Enrollments

Admission spaces available for new student enrollments increased by 93.4% (n=71), from 76 spaces in 2000-2001 to 147 in 2007-2008. These spaces were filled with a total of 178 students, more than doubling new student enrollment since 2000-2001.

Availability and Utilization of Admission Spaces

	<i>Academic Year</i>							
	<i>2000-2001</i>	<i>2001-2002</i>	<i>2002-2003</i>	<i>2003-2004</i>	<i>2004-2005</i>	<i>2005-2006</i>	<i>2006-2007</i>	<i>2007-2008</i>
Spaces Available	76	84	87	84	116	127	131	147
New Student Enrollments	70	77	87	84	104	144	147	178
% Spaces Filled	92.1%	91.7%	100.0%	100.0%	89.7%	113.4%	112.2%	121.1%

While nursing programs still receive more applications requesting entrance into their programs than can be accommodated, for the first time in six years there was a drop in the number of qualified applications to Northern California nursing programs. In addition, the share of qualified applications that were not accepted for admission dropped for the first time since 2001-2002. In 2007-2008, 34.6% (n=94) of qualified applications to Northern California nursing education programs were not accepted for admission.

Applications Accepted and Not Accepted for Admission

	<i>Academic Year</i>							
	<i>2000-2001</i>	<i>2001-2002</i>	<i>2002-2003</i>	<i>2003-2004</i>	<i>2004-2005</i>	<i>2005-2006</i>	<i>2006-2007</i>	<i>2007-2008</i>
Qualified Applications	99	108	62	174	214	343	350	272
<i>Accepted</i>	70	77	87	84	104	144	147	178
<i>Not Accepted</i>	29	31	-25	90	110	199	203	94
% Qualified Applications Not Accepted	29.3%	28.7%	*NA	51.7%	51.4%	58.0%	58.0%	34.6%

**Since these data represent applications rather than individuals, an increase in qualified applications may not represent equal growth in the number of individuals applying to nursing school.

The Northern California region has seen new student enrollments in its nursing programs more than double since 2000-2001. Over the last year, enrollments in all program types increased by 21.1% (n=31). The majority (66.3%) of nursing students in Northern California are educated in public ADN programs.

New Student Enrollment by Program Type

	<i>Academic Year</i>							
	<i>2000-2001</i>	<i>2001-2002</i>	<i>2002-2003</i>	<i>2003-2004</i>	<i>2004-2005</i>	<i>2005-2006</i>	<i>2006-2007</i>	<i>2007-2008</i>
New Student Enrollment	70	77	87	84	104	144	147	178
<i>ADN</i>	30	33	40	40	50	89	103	118
<i>BSN</i>	40	44	47	44	54	55	44	60
<i>ELM</i>								
<i>Private</i>								
<i>Public</i>	70	77	87	84	104	144	147	178

Student Completions

The number of students who completed a nursing program in the Northern California region more than doubled, from 55 in 2000-2001 to 142 in 2007-2008. Of the 142 students that completed a nursing program in Northern California in 2007-2008, 66.9% (n=95) of them completed an ADN program and 33.1% (n=47) completed a BSN program.

Student Completions

	Academic Year							
	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
Student Completions	55	62	59	59	90	108	122	142
ADN	21	28	26	29	52	57	82	95
BSN	34	34	33	30	38	51	40	47
ELM								

Retention Rate

Of the 152 students scheduled to complete a nursing program in the 2007-2008 academic year, 88.2% (n=134) completed the program on-time, 1.9% (n=3) are still enrolled in the program, and 9.9% (n=15) dropped out or were disqualified from the program. The retention rate increased from 86.7% in 2006-2007 to 88.2% in 2007-2008.

Student Cohort Completion and Retention Data

	Academic Year							
	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
Enrollment	138	78	77	101	103	98	113	152
Completed On Time	120	55	60	72	83	85	98	134
Still Enrolled	5	2	3	5	4	0	3	3
Attrition	13	21	14	24	16	13	12	15
Retention Rate*	87.0%	70.5%	77.9%	71.3%	80.6%	86.7%	86.7%	88.2%
Attrition Rate	9.4%	26.9%	18.2%	23.8%	15.5%	13.3%	10.6%	9.9%
% Still Enrolled	3.6%	2.6%	3.9%	4.9%	3.9%	0.0%	2.7%	1.9%

*Retention rate = (students who completed the program on-time) / (enrollment)

There has been fluctuation in the retention and attrition rates over the eight-year period documented in the above table. There were changes to the survey between 2003-2004 and 2004-2005, and between 2004-2005 and 2005-2007 that may have affected the comparability of these data over time.

Student Census Data

The total number of students enrolled in Northern California nursing programs increased by 88.1% (n=141), from 160 on October 15, 2001, to 301 on October 15, 2008.

The reported number of pre-nursing students increased from 40 in 2007 to 203 in 2008. This increase may be due to more programs reporting data than to an actual increase in the number of pre-nursing students.

Student Census Data

Program Track	Academic Year							
	<i>2000-2001</i>	<i>2001-2002</i>	<i>2002-2003</i>	<i>2003-2004</i>	<i>2004-2005</i>	<i>2005-2006</i>	<i>2006-2007</i>	<i>2007-2008</i>
ADN Program	53	58	86	95	123	132	163	168
BSN Program	107	109	113	140	148	130	119	133
ELM Program								
Total Nursing Students	160	167	199	235	271	262	282	301
Pre-Nursing Students					222	160	40	203

*Blank cells indicated that the applicable information was not requested in the given year.

Clinical Simulation in Nursing Education

Only one nursing school in the Northern California region used a clinical simulation center² between 8/1/07 and 7/31/08. This school reported using these facilities to standardize clinical experiences, to provide clinical experience not available in a clinical setting, and to increase capacity in the nursing program.

² Clinical Simulation Center/Experience - students have a simulated real-time nursing care experience using hi-fidelity mannequins and clinical scenarios, which allow them to integrate, apply, and refine specific skills and abilities that are based on theoretical concepts and scientific knowledge. The experience includes videotaping, de-briefing and dialogue as part of the learning process.

Faculty Census Data

The total number of nursing faculty in the Northern California Region increased by 38.6% (n=17) over the last year. On October 15, 2008, there were 61 total nursing faculty. Of these faculty, 26.2% (n=16) were full-time and 73.8% (n=45) were part-time.

Although there was an increase in the total number of nursing faculty in 2008, that increase has not kept pace with the need for faculty. On October 15, 2008, there were four vacant faculty positions in the Northern California region. These vacancies represent a 6.2% faculty vacancy rate.

Faculty Data

	<i>Academic Year</i>							
	<i>2000-2001</i>	<i>2001-2002</i>	<i>2002-2003</i>	<i>2003-2004</i>	<i>2004-2005^{*2}</i>	<i>2005-2006</i>	<i>2006-2007</i>	<i>2007-2008</i>
Total Faculty	29	28	23	24	32	34	44	61
Full-time	14	13	14	15	6	15	17	16
Part-time	15	15	9	9	12	19	27	45
Vacancy Rate**		6.7%	14.8%	14.3%	8.6%	5.6%	6.4%	6.2%
Vacancies		2	4	4	3	2	3	4

In 2004-2005, 2005-2006 and 2006-2007, the sum of full- and part-time faculty did not equal the total faculty reported.

*Faculty vacancies were estimated based on the vacant FTEs reported.

**Vacancy rate = number of vacancies/(total faculty + number of vacancies)

Summary

In the past eight years, the number of admission spaces available in pre-licensure nursing education programs in the Northern California region increased by 93.4% (n=71). New student enrollments in these programs more than doubled (n=108) during the same time period. Even though these programs continue to receive more qualified applications than can be accommodated, qualified applications to these programs decreased by 22.3% (n=78) over the last year.

Nursing program expansions have led to a growing number of RN graduates in the region. Between 2000-2001 and 2007-2008, graduations more than doubled (n=87) in the Northern California region. Graduations will continue to rise as larger cohorts of students complete RN programs.

Expansion in nursing education has required nursing programs to hire more faculty. Although the number of nursing faculty has more than doubled (n=32) since 2000-2001, faculty hires have not kept pace with the growth in pre-licensure nursing programs in the region. In 2007-2008, the Northern California region reported four faculty vacancies, representing a 6.2% faculty vacancy rate. RN programs will not be able to continue their expansion without more faculty.

APPENDIX A – Northern California Nursing Education Programs

ADN Programs

College of the Redwoods
College of the Siskiyous
Mendocino College

BSN Programs

Humboldt State University

APPENDIX B – BRN Education Advisory Committee Members

BRN Education Advisory Committee Members

Members

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